

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Update from Covington Independent and Jefferson County on school support plans

### **Applicable Statutes or Regulations:**

KRS 160.345-346

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** At the February 2007 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education voted to transfer school council authority of Holmes Junior/Senior High School (Covington Independent School District) to the superintendent. It further voted to approve the Holmes Junior/Senior High School council to act in an advisory capacity until authority has been restored to the council when the school meets its goal for an accountability cycle as determined by the Kentucky Department of Education under KRS 158.6455.

The Board voted to transfer school council authority of Iroquois Middle School (Jefferson County Public Schools) to the superintendent. It further voted to approve that the Iroquois Middle School council not act in an advisory capacity until authority has been restored to the council when the school meets its goal for an accountability cycle as determined by the Kentucky Department of Education under KRS 158.6455.

At Southern Leadership Academy (Jefferson County Public Schools) both the school and the district audit teams recommended the transfer of the council's authority to the superintendent; therefore, the application of KRS.160.346 provided for the commissioner of education, rather than the Kentucky Board of Education, to transfer the authority and to determine whether the school council should continue in an advisory capacity. Under KRS 160.345, Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland transferred council authority to the superintendent of the Jefferson County Public Schools. Mr. Noland further determined that the Southern Leadership Academy council not continue in an advisory capacity, effective December 21, 2006.

Additionally, during the February meeting the Kentucky Board of Education, members proposed that the Jefferson County and Covington Independent School District superintendents draft school support plans to guide district and school improvements in low performing schools. The Board further requested each superintendent to convey their school support plans to the Board for review and to be available for questions.

During the April 2007 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the superintendents from Jefferson County Public Schools and Covington Independent School District presented school support plans based upon their districts' scholastic audit recommendations. After

the presentations, the Board requested the superintendents from both districts join the Board again in August to discuss their plans in greater depth and the progress they are making.

The districts will be present at the August meeting to provide an update on the implementation of their school support plans. The plans are attached for the Board's reference.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

The local district superintendent now has the authority to implement local school governance in Southern Leadership Academy and Iroquois Middle School in Jefferson County and Holmes Junior/Senior High School in Covington Independent School District. Their improvement plans include actions to assist and strengthen these low-performing schools in Jefferson County and Covington Independent School Districts schools.

**Contact Person:**

Stephen Schenck, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Leadership and School Improvement  
502-564-2116  
[Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov](mailto:Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov)

Barbara Kennedy, Director  
Division of Scholastic Assistance  
502-564-2116  
[Barbara.Kennedy@education.ky.gov](mailto:Barbara.Kennedy@education.ky.gov)

---

**Deputy Commissioner**

---

**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

August 2007